

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 have been examined. Claims 1-17 have been allowed. Claims 19-25 have been canceled, without prejudice, in response to the prior restriction requirement and for later filing in a divisional or other application. Claim 18 has been amended, and claims 26-28 have been added. Hence claims 1-18 and 26-28 are now pending. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit herewith a *Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136a*, requesting a two-month extension from August 7, 2003 to October 7, 2003.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vandamme et al., U. S. Pat. No. 6,114,245.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claim 18, as amended, provides a method of processing a wafer prior to device formation thereon. The method includes, *inter alia* and in order, providing a wafer having first and second surfaces and a peripheral edge, and grinding the first and second wafer surfaces. The method includes then processing the peripheral edge, with the processing comprising defining an edge profile of the wafer and polishing the peripheral edge. The first and second wafer surfaces are then polished. Such a method is neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the cited art Vandamme.

As previously noted, the method of independent claim 18 provides a series of processes that are claimed in the listed order, with edge processing occurring after grinding. At least some of the benefits of this claimed process are described on page 7, lines 21-32 of the present application. A review of the figures in Vandamme shows that in each embodiment therein, edge profiling occurs prior to grinding. Thus, for at least this reason independent claim 18 is allowable over the cited art. Added dependent claims 26-28 depend from claim 18 and are allowable for at least this reason, as well as for the additional novel features contained therein.

Appl. No. 09/808,790
Amdt. dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2003

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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